

Appendix C - Engagement Table

Stakeholder	Engagement Carried Out	Feedback	Project Response
Community			
Surrounding local landowners and community Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitchell Place Residents General and wider Community 	Three online briefings were scheduled specifically for Mitchell Place residents on 6, 8 and 9 November 2024. Sessions aimed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the proposal's staging and access arrangements; Clarify concerns around overflow parking, buffer vegetation, and visual impacts; and Provide opportunities to ask questions about traffic flow, water runoff, and construction activity. 	Traffic Generation and Parking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern regarding increase in traffic generation, availability of parking and pedestrian site access with respect to impacts on the Mitchell Place streetscape. Concerns regarding residential privacy instigated by potential influx of activity on Mitchell Place which could causing disruption to residential amenity. Concern that the traffic management plan to divert people from going through the gorge will not be effective. 	As noted in the Transport and Accessibility Impact Assessment, the expected traffic generation is considered to be acceptable. Douglas Park Drive will serve as the principal access to the site, accommodating all visitor movements and the majority of staff traffic. The secondary entrance on Mitchell Place is reserved for maintenance vehicles and will be used infrequently. The Transport and Accessibility Impact Assessment further notes the provision of car parking across the whole site (Concept Masterplan) is considered sufficient, noting a total of 131 car parking spaces are provided (excluding hearse parking spaces) with 130 required.
	An online survey open to the public, receiving a total of 50 responses. Respondents were asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide feedback on valued aspects of the local area; Rate design features and public access components of the proposal; and Offer suggestions for managing perceived impacts. 		
	A community-wide online information session was held to provide general project information. Key points addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the concept plan and Stage 1 works; Access points and operational layout of the site; and Format and purpose of the community survey. 		
		Open Space <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern regarding increase in pedestrian activity treating the cemetery as a new park and public open space. Perception that no one will bring their families or want to treat the cemetery as a walking or cycling active circuit where people are grieving. 	The Memorial Park will be open to the public between the hours of 6:00am and 6:00pm, 7 days a week, providing an additional piece of publicly open space for the surrounding community to use as a passive space.
		Vegetation Clearing and Bushfire Risk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern regarding the protection of the 30m vegetation buffer zone and quality of local ecology 	The existing vegetation buffer will be retained and enhanced as part of the project. It will be revitalised through additional native plantings and ecological

being diminished and eliminated as a result of the proposal.

- Residential amenity concerns regarding impacts to scenic quality of the locality and diminished views from residential properties as a result of vegetation clearing.
- Concerns regarding bush fire risk as a result of vegetation buffer.
- Concerns regarding how the proposal, through design and landscaping, will aim to retain the character of the local area.

restoration works, strengthening the local ecosystem.

The vegetation buffer will screen the cemetery effectively, allowing only limited views from Mitchell Place. Likewise, visitors within the cemetery will have no direct line of sight to Mitchell Place.

Mitigation measures have been provided to ensure the effective mitigation of bush fire impacts.

Noise and Air Pollution

- Concern regarding sound pollution and acoustic impacts on residential properties and mitigation measures.

A Noise Impact Assessment is provided and notes the operational noise emissions are expected to comply with the relevant guidelines and are not considered to adversely impact the existing amenity of surrounding receivers. Further, noise and vibration emissions during construction (including the excavation works required) will be managed in accordance with the relevant guidelines. Relevant mitigation measures are provided within the EIS.

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- Concern regarding the management of health impacts from rock ripping with respect to dust control.

- Queried mitigation measures relative to dust impacts associated with construction.

As per the Construction Management Plan, dust control measures will be implemented in accordance with the EPA environmental dust control requirements, Workplace WHS Act and Regulations and the relevant governing Authorities.

The Site Management team will monitor any dust emissions during construction and implement water suppression during plant movement and/or loading activities. Further measures are noted in the Construction Management Plan. Relevant mitigation measures are provided with the EIS.

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- Concern regarding treatment of air quality as a result of crematorium facilities.

- General avoidance of environmental impact from the operation of the crematorium.

An Air Quality Impact Assessment is provided as part of the SSDA. Results from modelling notes there are no adverse environmental effects from the future operation of the proposed crematorium use (the detail of which is subject to a

		separate detailed application). It also notes there is potential the operations may have fewer emissions further assuring no environmental impacts.
Stormwater Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water damage already affecting properties. Buffer zone will not address water impacts. 	A Stormwater Management Plan has been prepared and describes the water cycle proposed.
Impacts on Local Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern regarding the welfare of local wildlife that may be impacted by increased traffic generation and current speed limits. Koalas have vanished from the site. Trees being removed. 	<p>A Koala Assessment Report has been prepared (provided at Appendix DD) and concludes that no Koala activity has been identified on the site, nor will the proposed development isolate valuable areas of koala habitat or impact on any local connectivity for the species. Further, it should be noted that most Koala feed trees are protected within the Native Vegetation Buffer and that the proposed development will require the removal of one (1) tree.</p> <p>The BDAR report at Appendix CC notes there is likely to be a cumulative impact on pressures to local wildlife, and crossing of Douglas Park Drive will become more dangerous for particular fauna groups will road kill likely to increase marginally, although not necessarily on any particular threatened entities.</p>
Economic Viability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern regarding the economic success of the proposal. 	Since DA/2018/780/1, the proposal has been revised to expand burial capacity, strengthening the economic viability, and meet the region's growing demand for burial space.

Faith and Industry Stakeholders

Faith Denomination Groups	<p>Targeted one-on-one interviews were conducted with representatives from: Catholic, Anglican, Islamic, Uniting, Presbyterian, and Buddhist faiths. Engagement focussed on the following specific matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current preference data for burial versus cremation and considerations of the preferences; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preference for burial facilities more than cremation facilities. Cremation facilities should consider the special needs of mourners to this process. Specific plot design issues, such as size, orientation and location in the cemetery. 	This information has informed the overall design approach for the proposed cemetery design which was presented to and endorsed by the State Design Review Panel (SDRP).
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- Specific plot design issues, such as size, orientation, location in the cemetery and how these issues are determined;
 - Special features of the cemetery creating a design excellence outcome for mourners;
 - Special needs of cremation mourners;
 - Changes and modernisation in burial/cremation trends;
 - Spiritual and cultural needs for the service and body disposition, such as the time of day, role of mourners, likely attendance levels;
 - Catchment of the cemetery – time constraints for disposition and travel constraints of mourners; and General burial shortage data in Greater Sydney.
- Inclusion of considerate design features of the cemetery creating to create a high quality outcome for mourners.
 - Critical to consider the specific spiritual and cultural needs for the service and body disposition of particular faith denominations, taking into consideration the time of day, role of mourners and likely attendance levels during these periods.
 - Concern regarding the size catchment of the cemetery with specific consideration of travel constraints for mourners and general shortage of burial plots across Greater Sydney.

Industry Bodies and Associations

Targeted one-on-one interviews were conducted with representatives from InvoCare and the Australian Funeral Directors Association. Engagement focussed on the following specific matters:

- Current preference data for burial versus cremation and considerations of the preferences;
- Specific plot design issues, such as size, orientation, location in the cemetery and how these issues are determined;
- Special features of the cemetery creating a design excellence outcome for mourners;
- Special needs of cremation mourners;
- Changes and modernisation in burial/cremation trends;
- Spiritual and cultural needs for the service and body disposition, such as the time of day, role of mourners, likely attendance levels;
- Catchment of the cemetery – time constraints for disposition and travel constraints of mourners; and General burial shortage data in Greater Sydney.

- Traffic flow is a major consideration for Funeral Directors who often have a number of services in any one day and need to enter and exit each location as rapidly but as sensitively as possible.
- Funeral processions (cortesges) can be very large - up to 200/300 people. It is critical to have more than one exit to the cemetery.
- Recommends that large funerals are staggered and that traffic management teams are brought in to assist on busy days.
- Public transport is critical. Douglas Park should consider a shuttle bus from Douglas Park train station.

As noted in the Transport and Accessibility Impact Assessment at **Appendix X**, there will be a maximum of two (2) large services held concurrently with an average of 60 to 80 visitors per service and a maximum of 330 visitors at the site at any one time. The assessment undertaken found that the proposed development will not have any adverse impacts to key intersections near the site, with all intersections maintaining their levels of services during the weekday and weekend peak periods.

First Nations

Consultation with D'harawal Elders

The primary purpose of the recent connecting with Country engagement with D'harawal Elders Aunty Gwenda Jarett and Aunty Jodie Stewart was to identify the cultural-heritage values and expectations

Key discussion points included:

- The need to conserve and clearly communicate Aboriginal history across the site;

The Applicant will continue to consult with Aboriginal stakeholders as necessary and implement mitigation measures in regards to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage. The

	<p>that should guide this project on D'harawal Country. Consultation was held from 2023 to 2024.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to regenerating native plant communities, especially traditional medicinal species, to support learning and cultural practice for future generations; • Incorporation of dedicated spaces for ceremony (e.g. smoking) and education (e.g. yarning circles). Use of contemporary technologies to interpret Aboriginal culture in innovative ways; • Respect for Country through adherence to customary law/lore, engagement with Elders authorised to speak for Country, and fair recompense for their knowledge and time; • Promotion of sustainable living initiatives such as vegetable gardens, solar panels and other clean-energy solutions. Cultural-awareness training on Country for non-Aboriginal project personnel; and • Involvement of both male and female cultural-heritage officers to address men's and women's business. 	<p>discussions held have informed the design principles for the development.</p>
<p>Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council</p>	<p>Engagement with the LALC was held throughout 2024. The primary purpose of the engagement with the Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council (TLALC) was to confirm the cultural-heritage values and consultation principles that should underpin the project.</p>	<p>Key discussion points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of Aboriginal people as the traditional owners of Country and the need to respect the cultural values, needs and heritage of the TLALC's members and wider community; • The importance of open, transparent and accountable collaboration characterised by confidentiality, duty of care, ethical conduct, fairness, honesty, integrity and empathy; • The critical role of cultural education—ensuring D'harawal children learn their culture and language, fostering pride and belonging, and encouraging non-Aboriginal people to learn about Aboriginal culture; and • The TLALC's commitment to "Healing Country" as a core objective of its work. 	
<p>Douglas Park Memorial Park Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment</p>	<p>The primary purpose of recent Aboriginal-community engagement for the project's Cultural Heritage Assessment was to confirm who speaks for D'harawal Country and the key values that must shape future works.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognising 16 Registered Aboriginal Parties; • Insights from the 2 July 2024 site survey: cultural importance of waterways, ridgelines, ironbark and sandstone resources, seasonal plant indicators and the area's link to the Appin Massacre; and 	

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- Commitment to unexpected-finds procedures and long-term cultural-heritage management in the forthcoming ACHAR.

Aunty Glenda Chalker

On 5 September 2024 an online meeting with D'harawal Elder Aunty Glenda Chalker (Cubbitch Barta Native Title Corporation) was to discuss site-specific cultural-heritage considerations.

Further, a Walk on Country and heritage field survey with Aunty Glenda Chalker (D'harawal Environment & Heritage Pty Ltd) was undertaken on 24 October 2024 to inspect the site on ground level, confirm cultural values and test its suitability for the proposed Memorial Park.

Key points raised in the online meeting were:

- Cultural significance of the Nepean River, its drought-time importance, and concern about potential leaching from the site into nearby waterways
- Recognition of the site's intangible history within a landscape that includes the 1816 Appin Massacre;
- Geotechnical suitability for burials given the area's shallow soils and extensive rock;
- Need for on-ground inspection and detailed technical information as part of the Connection to Country process; and
- Emphasis on consulting RAPs with direct ties to Country and ensuring their participation in site surveys and archaeological reviews.

The outcome of the meeting was that Aunty Glenda Chalker and D'harawal Environment & Heritage Pty Ltd were invited to join an October Walk on Country and site survey.

Additionally the key points raised during the walk on Country were:

- Heritage field observations: remnant ironbark, grey box and forest red-gum; three water gullies with sandstone platforms formerly used for tool-making; no visible artefacts or culturally modified trees;
 - Geotechnical matters: shallow soils, sandstone bedrock and groundwater conditions, with the Geotechnical investigations requested and subsequently supplied on 1 November 2024;
 - Landscape management: preference to keep the site relatively untouched in terms of landscaping and formal gardening. Preference for endemic plantings (e.g. bush cherry, ironbark, grass trees and native grasses). Importance of retention of dead trees for habitat purposes, and use of cultural burning for fire management;
 - Funeral needs: potential burial-cost implications of rocky ground; provision for smoking ceremonies,
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- dancing and singing, including planting suitable tree species for ceremonial leaves; and
- Cremation and ash-scattering: need to identify culturally appropriate locations on site.

Government Agencies and Council

Wollondilly Shire Council

The project team met with Council officers on 12 December 2024 to:

- Provide an update on the plans for the site;
- To share the presentation that had been provided through the community engagement; and
- To answer any questions.

The status of the previously approved concept DA and the proposed changes under the SSD pathway.

It is intended DA/2018/780/1 will be surrendered as a condition of consent imposed by the SSDA.

Concerns raised by residents of Mitchell Place. Traffic access and parking during funeral services.

Traffic impacts have been addressed in the Transport and Accessibility Impact Assessment.

Bushfire management and vegetation buffer zones.

Asset Protection Zones have been provided as per the Bushfire Report.

Clarification around Council's planning role in the context of the SSD process.

Council will be provided with an opportunity to comment on the proposal as part of the SSDA exhibition.

Confirmation that further community consultation would occur during public exhibition of the EIS.

The Applicant is willing to undertake further community consultation once exhibition commences and material will be available for review.

Queried whether it is detrimental to habitat to have a trail in the vegetation buffer zone.

The inclusion of the nature trail is not considered to impact the native vegetation buffer given the low impact of the proposed works.

Queried the impact of the sandstone ground base on burial sites.

The sandstone base underneath burials is consistent with what was approved as part of DA/2018/780/1 (notwithstanding the nature of the DA being for the purposes of a concept).

There is a resolution of Council to progress an amendment to the Wollondilly LEP to remove cemeteries and crematoria as permissible land use in rural zones.

Noted.

Clarification as to whether the holders of current concept approval are also the applicant for the SSD?

Benima Pty Ltd remains as the Applicant for the SSDA (same as DA/2018/780/1).

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure	Briefing meeting held with assessment team on 30 April 2025.	No specific feedback was provided noting the meeting was more for the purposes of updating the assessment team on the project's progress. The DPPI noted potential concern related to the validity of the SEARs noting the changes that had occurred since the scoping documentation that was used to inform the preparation of the SEARs.	In response, amended SEARs were requested to resolve any potential inconsistencies noting the slight changes that had occurred since the scoping documentation, noting the intent remains and the amendments that occurred largely related to the area that related to the Stage 1 works and reduction of burial plots from 69,759 to 37,107 (concept masterplan) and from 24,021 to 15,447 (Stage 1).
Transport for NSW	Email correspondence was issued on the 29 May 2024 to Transport for NSW informing them of the SSDA.	TfNSW confirmed via email that no commentary beyond what was provided with the SEARs dated 13 March 2024 was necessary. A meeting between the Applicant and TfNSW was also not considered necessary. TfNSW indicated that once referral is made to TfNSW following lodgement, TfNSW is happy to facilitate a meeting if required.	Noted.
Endeavor Energy	Email correspondence was issued to Endeavour Energy informing them of the SSDA on 18 March 2025.	Endeavor Energy confirmed via email that (at the time of application) there is sufficient capacity in the high voltage existing networks (without any further upstream upgrade works) to provide High Voltage (HV) power to a new Endeavour Energy pad mounted substation located on site to provide the requested 900 Amps per phase.	Noted .
Rural Fire Services	Email correspondence was issued on 5 May 2025 to Rural Fire Service informing them of the SSDA and requesting any further correspondence beyond the comments provided with the issued SEARs.	No further correspondence has been received to date.	
Sydney Water	A 'Building Plan Assessment' application was made through the 'Sydney Water Tap in' portal. Additionally, a statement of available pressure and flow was applied for and received from Sydney Water. Consultation took place on the 4 June 2024 and 12 June 2024 respectively.	A 'Building Plan Assessment' application was made through the Sydney Water Tap in portal and it was confirmed by Sydney Water that the proposed structures would not impact or affect Sydney Water assets. A statement of available pressure and flow was applied for and received from Sydney Water. Sydney Water are also processing a section 73 compliance certificate to verify that the proposed development will be provided with adequate water supply.	The available pressure and flow within the existing Sydney Water main was found to be adequate to supply the project domestic and fire protection water requirements without the need for onsite water storage tanks or pumps.

Other Stakeholders

GM3 Pty Ltd (Mine Lease Holder)

A Meeting was held to discuss the requirements stipulated by the Department of Mining, Exploration and Geoscience.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to address the potential implications of future mining activities on the site. Key discussion points included:

- The potential impacts of future mining activities on the proposed buildings, structures, and burial areas, including the likelihood of such impacts and recommended mitigation measures; and
- The influence of future mining activities on ground conditions, specifically in relation to groundwater movement and the potential migration of leachate from the cemetery into the surrounding water table and natural watercourses.

No mining activities are planned beneath the proposed Douglas Park Cemetery or adjacent to the site for at least the next 20 years. Written confirmation from the mining lease holder is provided as an attachment to the Mine Subsidence Report at **Appendix MM**.

No action required.